1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable and important consignments as far as possible.

2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.

3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/ seals carrying consignments vulnerable to thefts etc.

4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.

5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.

6. Dog squads are deployed for partrolling in vulnerable yards and areas as per their availability.

7. Close coordination between the RPF, the GRP and the local police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and reeivers of stolen property.

8. Based on crime intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of the criminals/receivers of the stolen property in order to bring them to book.

Formulation of Captive Plantation Policy for Afforestation

399. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering formulation of a Captive Plantation Policy for afforestation of waste lands by the paper industry;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the private sector paper industry and if so, what is the summary of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government would take into confidence the environmentalist lobbies and elicit their reaction to such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no proposal to have a 'Captive Plantation Policy' as such; however, in view of the increasing threat to encoroachment upon large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently in order to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and check soil erosion, as also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs, and thereby reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, several State Governments had approached the Central Government with suggestions to tap the resources of industry in order to augment current efforts at afforestation. The Central Government is therefore considering the formulation of guidelines for Forest Development Corporation of States to associate with industry in these efforts within the parameters of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit the environment as well as rural and tribal communities by increasing total biomass availability in the rural areas and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(b) Some State Forest Development Corporation have forwarded proposals from some industries such as M/s. Straw Products Ltd., M/s. Ballarpur Industries Ltd., M/s. Orient Paper Mills Ltd., M/s. Mangalam Timber Ltd., etc. for afforestation in degraded forest lands in association with the State Forest Development Corporations. No decision has been taken on these proposals, since the guidelines are still under formulations.

(c) Suggestions received from various environmentalists and NGOs were considered while drafting the proposal. The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after assessment of various issues involved and ensureing protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities, as well as environmental, silvicultural and socio-economis factors.